

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5 : (Canceled)

Claim 6 : (New) A telecommunications network, comprising: a plurality of mesh nodes, each mesh node including one or more switches, each mesh node having a connection to each other mesh node by means of a connection between a switch at the one mesh node and a switch at the other mesh node, at least one of the mesh nodes including a plurality of switches wherein connections for nodes with a plurality of switches are divided between the plurality of switches associated with that node, and each mesh node having associated therewith a respective plurality of local nodes, each switch of each mesh node being connected to all of the respective associated plurality of local nodes, and a network routing algorithm to control routing in the network.

Claim 7 : (New) The telecommunications network as claimed in claim 6, wherein one or more of the local nodes are connected to more than the one mesh node.

Claim 8 : (New) The telecommunications network as claimed in claim 6, wherein the plurality of switches of the mesh node are connected.

Claim 9 : (New) A method of upgrading a telecommunications network having a plurality of mesh nodes, each mesh node including at least one switch, each mesh node having a direct connection to each other mesh node by means of a connection between a switch at the one mesh node and a switch at the other mesh node, and the switch or switches of each mesh

node being each connected to all of a respective plurality of multiple local nodes, the method comprising the steps of:

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- a) adding a further switch to at least one of the mesh nodes;
 - b) connecting all of the respective plurality of local nodes to the further switch or switches;
 - c) providing a network routing algorithm to control routing in the network; and
 - d) dividing the connections for the at least one mesh node between the switch or switches and the further switch added to the at least one mesh node.

Claim 10 : (New) The method of upgrading the telecommunications network as claimed in claim 9, further including the step of making a connection between the switches of the at least one mesh node.